

Vatican Officials Wait While Pope Favors Workers

Holy Father Breaks Schedule To Give Communion From Own Hand To 750 Tramway Men

By Magr. Enrico Pucel.

Rome, Aug. 17.—Pope Pius XI a few days ago celebrated Mass for 750 workers on the tramways of Rome, and not only made them an affectionate address but disarranged his day's schedule an hour that he might distribute Holy Communion to them all personally, a very rare favor.

A deep impression has been made by the incident in Rome, especially in workingmen's circles.

The tramway men form a special section of the Apostolate of prayer, and they came to the Vatican in uniform, behind their banner with the picture of the Sacred Heart and headed by the principal tramway company officials. The general manager of the company, which is city-owned; the councillor of the Administration, Baron Barattelli, who also is an eminent journalist and public figure in Rome; the general manager of personnel, and all the engineers, accountants and head technicians accompanied the rank and file of the workers.

Secretary Kept Waiting.

All the officials received Holy Communion with the employees, the group approaching the Sacred Table with equal humility.

Seldom is a group, even much smaller than that of the tramway men, privileged to receive Communion from the Holy Father's own hand. This fact is not due to an aversion of the Pope to Communicate all the faithful, but to the fact that to do so would take up all his time, so much needed for other matters. Hence, when the Pope's Mass is accompanied by Communion His Holiness usually begins to distribute the Sacred Hosts personally, and is then helped by his chaplains.

Pope Pius had intended to follow the usual procedure in the case of the tramway men. But the spectacle presented to him was so touching that he insisted on communicating all himself. This although it stretched the ceremony to two and a half hours, and when the Pope reentered his apartment the Cardinal Secretary of State had been waiting nearly an hour for him.

Declaring that he was so touched that he could not resist giving the workers his affectionate greeting and paternal blessing, His Holiness then addressed the group in glowing terms.

A magnificent competition in piety is being witnessed this year in Rome, he said, in which many faithful are taking part, coming from all parts of the earth to bring to the Eternal City their contribution of piety and edification. In Rome these visitors, he continued, are finding the same fervor, in which the tramway men have taken a very large part.

Compliments Men On Service.

His Holiness had been informed of the splendid behavior of the tramway men toward the pilgrims, their courtesy, their deference and their respect toward all those who come to gain the spiritual treasures of the Holy Jubilee. Likewise the tramway men, belonging to a social condition which has so great a part in the daily development of civil life, also have had a great part in the intonation of that magnificent canticle which the pilgrims from all corners of the globe have sung and sing in Rome in the chorus of the Holy Year.

His Holiness also praised the men for their beautiful idea of constituting themselves in a special section of the Apostolate of prayer, then added: "You have also wished to bring into your fatiguing work the sweetness, the comfort the soothing of prayer, which is like the perfume of souls who pray to God to invoke all the graces, help and consolation necessary in the bitterness of daily life. You have the very noble aim of bringing Jesus everywhere, where He has the divine right to be known, loved and served. You yourselves proposed always to bring new adorers to Jesus, and always new frequenters to His Eucharistic Mass. Inspired under such auspices, your initiative cannot lack the Blessing of God and happiness in the future."

Masses On Sea Liners That All Can Attend Are Sought By League

Liverpool, August 17.—The Apostleship of the Sea, through its office here, has initiated a movement to have Masses celebrated on the great ocean liners on Sunday in parts of the ship to which the crew and the third class passengers have access. It has been the practice, according to the Rev. F. O. Blundell, O. S. B., Catholic Port Chaplain here, to have the Masses on the liners in the first class saloon, which the third class passengers and the crew are not allowed to enter.

The suggestion has been made through the Apostleship of the Sea that the Masses, when only one priest is available, be celebrated in the third class saloon which, thoughtless and ungenerous as it is, has been furnished with a clean and large enough for the purpose, and that first class passengers be invited to be present. This arrangement it is pointed out, would permit the passengers traveling in the third class and the members of the crew to attend.

Irish Scorn Rain In Historic Climb Up Sacred Mount

Torrent Drenches Pilgrims Tolling Up Croagh Patrick, But Age-Old Custom Draws More Than Ever Before 1,000 In Single Party.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, Aug. 16.—A terrific torrent of rain greeted the annual ascent of Croagh Patrick, but nevertheless it has just been made by a record number of pilgrims.

Special trains were pouring into Westport during the whole of the previous day. From every part of Great Britain and Ireland the people came. About 1,000 Liverpool Irish arrived late the night before. The town was thronged with motor cars.

From midnight the pilgrims were assembling in an ever-growing multitude on the summit, to spend the waiting hours in prayer. At 5 a. m. the deluge broke and continued the entire day. Heedless of the down-pour, the human thousands kept swarming up the mountain side which centuries had sanctified, to join in the devotions on the top.

Ancient Tradition Recalled.

As the day wore on and parts of the way became sodden, the ascent grew very difficult. Many were weary and footsore even at the moment of beginning the climb, yet they undertook it fasting, intent on reaping full spiritual benefit.

On the peak overlooking the sea, the powerful voice of the Rev. Dr. Browne of Maynooth rang out in the Irish tongue. He said in effect: "Our earliest tradition tells us that here on this rugged attitude Patrick obtained a divine assurance of the fruit and permanency of his work. The tradition is extraordinary, but its fulfillment has been more so; for while other countries gave up, Ireland held on."

"St. Patrick's prayer were not in vain. His sacrifice was the parent of the countless sacrifices that have spread the Faith to Bobbio and St. Gall, to Australia and America, and now to the restless millions of China."

Keep Irish Ideals.

"St. Patrick was the only successful conqueror of Ireland. We have come here to the scene of his vigil and penance to give him an arduous proof of our fidelity. Our duty is to make our lives individually worthy of the Faith we received from him. The example and intercession of Patrick will, next to the grace of God, be our greatest help in maintaining the old Irish personal and national ideals of life."

Oak Statue of Virgin Made in 13th Century Carried in Procession

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, Aug. 16.—Magnificent ceremonies marked the fiftieth anniversary of the crowning of the statue of Our Lady of Miracles of Saint-Omer. This statue is greatly venerated in the ancient city of Artois.

An imposing pageant, representing all the famous persons of the history of the city from the first days of Christianity was held, beginning with Saint-Omer, Bishop of Therouanne, who built the city on a little island floating in the midst of swamps. Then came all the great lords of the county, including Louis XIV and his suite. Following the historical section, the pageant showed all the famous Madonnas of the different cities of northern France, very numerous and exceedingly picturesque in their robes of silk and velvet, forming an escort for the venerable statue of Our Lady of Miracles carved from a piece of oak in the thirteenth century. A delegation from the Municipal Council of the city, accompanied by the Bishop of Arras, closed the procession.

The final ceremony was held on the great public square of the town. A Dominican father preached a magnificent sermon on the devotion to the Virgin of Miracles. A cantata was then sung by a choir of 500.

Irish Bachelors May Face Reduction In Pay Till They Take Brides

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, Aug. 17.—A startling innovation is understood to be contemplated in the Irish Free State Civil Service. Unmarried men entering the Service are to have only the same pay as the women of their grade. On marriage the men will receive a lump sum as bonus, and will be entitled to an immediate increase of salary. Women of the lower grades must retire on marriage, but it is intended in future to give each of them an appreciable dowry.

The arrangement amounts to a tax on young bachelors in the Civil Service involving a reduction of the present scale of pay by 25 per cent. The rule will apply to new appointments only.

Among other advantages, the married man will reach, by yearly increments, a higher maximum salary than his single colleague. It is said that more bachelors are to be found in the Civil Service than in other employments. The first suggestion that there should be a differentiation between the pay of married and unmarried men came from Richard Mulcahy, who made the recommendation in the Dail last December, and the plan now outlined is the sequel.

Blessing Alps, Quaint Swiss Rite, Repeated With Ancient Fervor

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Fribourg, Aug. 16.—A recent issue of La Liberté contains a picturesque description of one of the quaint Catholic ceremonies of the people of the Canton of Valais, in the Bernese Alps; the annual "Blessing of the Mountain."

In the month of July, when the cattle are ready to be driven to the high pastures, the parish priest announces the expected ceremony, and the word is carried over the mountains from house to house. This is a signal for vigorous housecleaning. The women don their holiday attire, flags are raised and the children bring in armfuls of rhododendrons for decoration. There is no hope for fine weather or a good harvest until the blessing has been imparted.

On the morning of the great day, when the first streak of dawn appears, the priest knapsack on his back and accompanied by a Capuchin and a boy, leaves the church, crosses the mountain torrent and starts his ascent of the mountains. For hours and hours he climbs, on his way to the upper pastures, up steep paths and rocky trails, bordered at this season with a profusion of wild flowers and fragrant mountain mint.

At each house the mother and children stand in line before the door to welcome him. The priest blesses the water and salt, then the house. Then comes the most impressive ceremony of all, the blessing of the mountain. By contrast with the mightiness of the snowclad peaks, the blessing is given with a branch of rhododendron, used as a hyssop, the pearly blossoms of which throw the holy water high into the air toward the lofty summits, while the priest pronounces the words which are intended to ward off storms and avalanches.

The people, kneeling, murmur prayers all the while. Ten and twelve times a day the ceremony is repeated. At nightfall the priest, weary from his strenuous labors, pauses to hear confessions. The penitents, who have finished their day's work and brought home their herds, go to the priest during the night, and wait, praying all the while for the Mass which is celebrated at dawn.

The Divine Sacrifice is celebrated in the open, on the mountain side under the blue canopy of the sky, with the mountain torrents thundering a majestic hymn of praise.

Nothing, says La Liberté is more impressive than the sight of these mountaineers kneeling to receive their God in this mighty Alpine basilica.

Erin's Ancient Clan Names To Be Borne By Army Battalions

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, Aug. 16.—It is proposed to confer on the 27 infantry battalions of the Irish Free State Army designations corresponding to the family names of the ancient Irish clans.

Several battalions will be called after the most famous Irish tribes, such as the O'Byrnes, the O'Carrolls, the O'Briens, the O'Tooles, the McMahons and the O'Neils according to the plans. In addition, it is thought likely that the names of the old regiments of the Irish Brigade will be assigned to some of the units.

Other regiments will bear such names as Sarsfield, Tone, Emmet, O'Connell, and some will assume patronyms associated with memories of the Easter Week Rising: Pearse, Connolly, McDonagh, O'Rahilly.

In the British Army the regiments were long known by numbers. Subsequently they were identified by the names of the districts from which they were identified by the names of the districts from which they were drawn, and this method still continues. A few are, however, familiarly named after great families and renowned soldiers.

Since the disbanding of the Irish regiments in the British service, the British Army has no remaining forces that are predominantly Catholic, though some of the North of England regiments have a large Catholic percentage. The Norfolk's, when on duty in Belfast a couple of years ago, had to endure a good deal of Orange violence because of the rather large proportion of Catholics in their ranks.

New Rome Church Not to Be Higher Than St. Peter's

(Rome Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Rome, Aug. 17.—The new church which the Spanish Religious of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are building in the Parioli quarter outside of Porta Flaminia will not be higher than St. Peter's, as erroneously reported in several Roman newspapers and copied abroad. The dome of St. Peter's is about 137 meters in height while the dome of the new structure, according to information obtained from those in charge of its construction, will be about 100 meters high. When completed the new church will be dedicated to the Heart of Mary. While it will not be larger than St. Peter's it will be one of the largest and most beautiful of the churches in Rome.

Boys Form S. V. P. Society, Minister To Sick and Aged

Dublin, Aug. 17.—Boys form a conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Nottingham. The treasurer is 13 years old and the secretary 16, and all the members, ranging in age between 11 and 18, are engaged in charitable works especially suited to boys.

Father H. A. Hunt, of Nottingham Cathedral, who organized the conference and is its chaplain, reported to the annual meeting of the S. V. P. Society this week the success of the experiment, which was inaugurated a short time ago.

"We specialize," he said, "in the visitation of sick children. I find out from the school registers what children are absent through sickness, and provided the sickness is not infectious I assign a couple of Brothers to visit each case."

Minister To Sick and Aged

"Experience shows that these visits of the Junior Brothers to their sick friends are very popular, especially when they take, as they often do, gifts of eggs, fruit and comic papers."

The boys also do patronage work by bringing other boys to Mass and the Sacraments.

The aspirants do a great deal of work for the aged and infirm. "I try to find for each pair of Brothers," Father Hunt states, "an old man or woman whom they can visit. They run messages for them, collect newspapers and read to them and do all sorts of odd jobs which are welcomed by the old folks."

"One young Brother calls regularly and threads a needle for an old lady whose sight is failing. Some of the boys take cripples out in wheel chairs which the conferences possesses."

"Of course the boys are told emphatically that they must not accept anything for their services. One of them told me once that he had been offered an apple."

"Did you take it?" I asked. "No, Father," said the boy. "How could I?"

"What did you say when you refused it?"

"Well, Father, I said I couldn't take the apple because I was on duty. But I said I wouldn't be on duty tomorrow."

Sacrifice Own Money To Poor

The only fund which the Nottingham aspirant council has at its disposal is the amount contributed by the boys at their weekly meetings. It averages one dollar.

Father Hunt says the boys are asked particularly to make their own offerings, from their own money, and not to get the money from their parents. This is to inculcate the importance of self-sacrifice for the poor.

Other parishes in England have aspirant conferences at work in each case the assignments are made by the senior Brothers. It is found that the existence of a boy conference insures a live local conference by keeping up a good supply of experienced, active members.

Priests' Heroism Is Futile As Sea Claims Children

Paris, Aug. 17.—Thirteen children between 10 and 12, members of a vacation colony, were drowned by a tidal wave in the Channel near Hardelot while in bathing, despite the heroic efforts of two priests to rescue them.

The children belonged to a vacation group organized by the Leclercq-Dupire factories, one of the largest textile enterprises of Northern France, which annually sends children of its workers on free outings. The colony at Hardelot, placed under the care of Father de la Porte of Lille, was composed of 37 boys. They had been in wading and were playing on the sand at the edge of the water when the tide turned and an enormous wave submerged the whole shore.

Father de la Porte and his assistant, Abbe Champenois, made heroic efforts to save the children, diving again and again into the sea. But despite their work and the assistance of others in attempts at resuscitation, the death toll was thirteen.

The Leclercq-Dupire factories immediately placed 14 automobiles at the disposal of their employees to take them to Hardelot, and have made all arrangements for the funeral, which by a decision of the Mayor, will be an official event, attended by all the children of both public and private schools.

Florida High School Principal Dismissed At Klan's Instigation

Arcadia, Fla., Aug. 21.—The Rev. Grady Herndon, pastor of the No-catees Baptist Church and assistant principal in the DeSoto High School here, has been dismissed from the latter position because, he says, of his criticisms of the Ku Klux Klan. He was dismissed by C. H. Smith, County School Superintendent, after he had refused a request for his resignation.

Mr. Herndon plans to appeal to the De Soto County School Board for redress and, if that is not forthcoming, he may take his case to court. He distributed a booklet, "The Ku Klux Klan—Anti-American, Anti-Christian, Anti-Baptist," to members of his congregation after he found that the Klan was soliciting memberships among them.

Irishmen From Many Climes At National Forester Congress

Dublin, Aug. 17.—From every part of the globe in which Irishmen have settled, delegates attended the International Congress of the Irish National Congress of the Irish National Foresters, which has just been held at Monaghan.

A great public demonstration, unparalleled in the history of the society, inaugurated the proceedings. The Most Rev. Dr. McKenna, Bishop of Clogher, welcomed the Congress in the name of the Catholics of Monaghan, adding an earnest hope that the order would grow and prosper and continue to be a source of influence for good among Catholic people.

"The organization of the Irish National Foresters, long since an international force, complies," he said, "with all the rules laid down by Pope Leo XIII for such associations. That great Pope pointed the way toward the wise formation of societies for the benefit of the working man, and indicated the various methods by which the conditions of the worker could be improved."

"The clear vision of the Pope went even further and showed the relations that should exist between the worker and those who employ him. Pope Leo understood that the worker is powerless alone. He needs the collective strength of his fellows. He has to face times of sickness, strife, distress and death. Then he requires the backing of his brethren. Your association is one of the forces that succeed him in the day of trial. God bless and guide your deliberations, so that prudent decisions may be reached."

From every district of Ireland thousands traveled by road and train to the Congress. An immense parade took place through the town to the Cathedral, several bands participating.

Americans Start On An Adventurous Pilgrimage to Rome

London, Aug. 19.—Some Americans in Constantinople have started out on an adventurous pilgrimage to Rome on foot over the route traveled by the Saracens of old, according to a message received here by the "Daily Express."

Mr. Edmund I. Cieminski, who is attached to the American embassy at Constantinople, is one of the pilgrims, and the others are members of diplomatic corps and missions to the Near East. They are all Catholics.

The long march is expected to take at least a month. The pilgrims will travel simply, and it is stated they hope to be received by the Pope at end of their journey.

The pilgrims will skirt the Sea of Marmora and go through the wildest regions of Bosnia and Albania, heading toward Trieste.

The journey through Albania is likely to furnish excitement. Not only the country mountains and the roads precipitous, but there still remain many outlaw bands in the mountainous regions whom the authorities have never been able to subdue. Numerous tales of slaughter, robbery and capture for ransom have come from the Albanian mountains.

Irish Partition Line Scorned By Labor Says Union Leader

Dublin, Aug. 17.—"The working-class in Ireland recognizes no political or geographical border."

This statement was made by Mr. O'Brien, the Secretary of the Irish Transient and General Workers' Union, at the meeting of the Irish Labor and Trades Union Congress in Newry, a town within the jurisdiction of the Belfast Government.

Partition, he said, only existed as a political abstraction. Outside of politics and geography, there was no partition of the people worth talking about. The workers have to be warily on their guard to see that no such separation was introduced in their ranks. At present they had delegates from all Ireland, regardless of the so-called boundary. They, the workers, would by their unity compel a speedy solution of such problems as unemployment, housing and security for old age, irrespective of North or South.

The unity of Ireland would come, he said he firmly believed, in our own time through the economic influence which the working class was exercising more and more upon politics. Great efforts would be made to draw the partition line between the workers, he continued, but they were not such fools as to give up the policy of shoulder-to-shoulder.

Protestant Churches Open World Congress

Stockholm, Aug. 19.—The World Congress of Churches opened here today with delegates present representing most of the Protestant sects and the Greek Orthodox Church. King Gustav welcomed the congress to Sweden.

The Congress was called to consider the place of the church in the modern world. Its promoters announced that while they do not believe it will be possible to unite even the Protestant sects under one administrative control, they hope that some fundamental unity of spirit may be achieved.

French Republican Federation Favors Religious Orders

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, Aug. 17.—At the Annual Congress of the Republican Federation, presided over by M. Marin, former Minister and Deputy from Meurthe-et-Moselle, Pastor Edouard Soulier, Deputy from Paris, presented a most important report on "The Legal Basis of our Future Religious Policy."

Recalling the fact that Dufaure, Jules Simon, Floquet, Goblet and other qualified leaders in the Third Republic had proposed to grant to all associations, including religious orders, freedom to organize without seeking official authorization, M. Soulier said:

"If mention is made, as usual, of the vows which they pronounce, we may recall, first of all, the phrase of Allain-Targé; 'there is always an alienation of liberty in any contract of association, and we must remember the fact that this alienation of a part of the liberty and will of an individual exists also in all cases where there is assumed any obligation under oath. There are numerous professions in which an oath must be taken before entering upon duty, and we may add that the law cannot govern the interior being. The interior being is inaccessible to the law and foreign to its domain. There, and there only, is the field of individual liberty, but in that domain it is sovereign. There the individual is entire, with no subject but himself, and with an undivided sovereignty.' The Congress adopted an official resolution tending toward the establishment of all religious orders within the common law governing associations."

M. Soulier's report is considered the more important because it was written by a Protestant Pastor whose loyalty and openmindedness are universally appreciated.

Priests Appealing For Irish Fisheries

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, Aug. 17.—Father White of Roundstone has espoused the cause of Ireland's fisheries in a determined manner. He was recently elected president of the Irish National Fisherman's Association.

At the Dublin Mansion House he called attention to the rapid shrinkage of the Irish fishing trade. "Our first industry," he said, "is agriculture, and fishing is a close second. Millions could be made out of it. It is the duty of those in power to see that coastal fishing is developed, and not in a small way."

Recalling the work that priests had in the last three years in organizing the fishermen's association is now strong enough to go to the Government and put up a scheme that would be suitable for all Ireland, and "I want to see a committee appointed for that purpose."

Father E. McSweeney, well-known Arklow curate who was the first to form the Irish fishermen into a body to safeguard their own interests, referred to the Irish fishery industry as something which they had to rebuild from the foundations, "because fishing in Ireland is practically dead."

Prayer Meetings Of Strikers Near Mines Held Legal

(N. C. W. C. News Service) Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 21.—

The right of striking union miners to hold prayer-meetings in the vicinity of their former places of employment, now operated by non-union labor, has been upheld by the Criminal Court of Appeals in a decision handed down by Judge Thomas A. Doyle. The judge granted habeas corpus petitions in the case of four miners who had been arrested for disregarding an order of Sheriff John Russell of Okmulgee County prohibiting the holding of religious meetings near the mines. Governor Trapp upheld Sheriff Russell's action.

The petitions granted by Judge Doyle charge Governor Trapp and others with entering into an "unholy conspiracy" to violate the Oklahoma Constitution by prohibiting picketing. On this phase of the situation Judge Doyle's decision reads:

"The facts alleged in this petition seek to show that the acting Governor and Okmulgee County officials seek to place themselves above the law, so surely an emergency does exist."

English Priest Will Become American

London, Aug. 19.—Three years in the United States has decided an English priest, Father P. J. Buggy, to work there for the rest of his life. He was formerly at St. Mary's Bradford, and went to America in 1922 in search of health. When he left he did not expect to see England again and his friends, knowing the state of his health, said goodbye to him.

This week he is among his old parishioners on vacation. He is bronzed and looking the picture of health. He told them he has spent a busy time in a large parish at Mitchell, Neb., and that as soon as he can get through the necessary formalities he will become an American citizen.